

Examiner : Scott R. Kastler  
Art Unit : 1742  
Docket No. : 52433/763

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants : T. TOMINAGA et al.  
Serial No. : 10/826,772  
Filed : April 16, 2004  
For : TREATMENT METHOD FOR IMPROVING FATIGUE LIFE AND  
LONG-LIFE METAL MATERIAL TREATED BY USING SAME  
TREATMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.132**

SIR:

I, TOMONORI TOMINAGA, a citizen of Japan, having a mailing address  
c/o Nippon Steel Corporation, Technical Development Bureau, 20-1, Shintomi, Futtsu-shi,  
Chiba 293-8511, Japan, declare as follows.

1. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter of the above-identified patent  
application and I am the first listed inventor on the Declaration And Power Of Attorney For  
Patent Application filed in the above-identified patent application on April 16, 2004 and  
which I signed on April 9, 2004.

2. I have read and understood Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418  
published April 18, 2003 and I have read and understood Japanese Patent Application No.  
2001-308355 filed October 4, 2001 which was published as Japanese Patent Publication No.  
2003-113418.

3. I am a co-inventor of the subject matter Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-308355 and I am a co-inventor of the subject matter of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418.

4. I have read and understood the attached PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN, Copyright ©; 1998, 2003 Japan Patent Office, for Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418 (hereafter "Abstract").

5. The Abstract lists the names of the co-inventors of the subject matter of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418 at Item (72).

6. In Item (72) of the Abstract the names of the co-inventors are listed with the last name (family name) first and the first name last, which is the custom in Japan.

7. The name of the first co-inventor of the subject matter of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418 listed at Item (72) of the Abstract is TOMINAGA NORIYOSHI. This is an error. As previously declared, I, TOMINAGA TOMONORI, am a co-inventor of the subject matter of Japanese Patent Publication No. 2003-113418.

8. I do not know the cause of the error in Item 72 of the Abstract.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and

the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Respectfully submitted,

*Tomonori Tominaga*

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Tomonori Tominaga

*02/08/2007.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN

(11)Publication number : 2003-113418

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(51)Int.Cl.

C21D 7/06  
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(21)Application number : 2001-308355

(71)Applicant : NIPPON STEEL CORP

(22)Date of filing : 04.10.2001

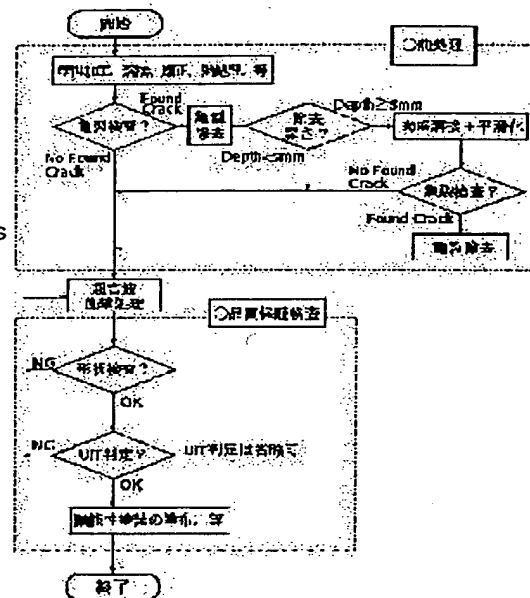
(72)Inventor : TOMINAGA NORIYOSHI  
MATSUOKA KAZUMI  
ISHIKAWA TADASHI  
KASUYA TADASHI  
HONMA KOJI

## (54) METHOD FOR IMPROVING FATIGUE LIFE AND LONG-LIFE METAL MATERIAL

### (57)Abstract:

**PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED:** To provide a new method for improving the fatigue life of metal materials, which solves problems in the conventional fatigue-improving methods for metal materials like reducing stress concentration and introducing compressive stress, as an construction efficiency, a skill of a builder and a quality control can not be conducted because there is no means for measuring the improved effect.

**SOLUTION:** The method for improving the fatigue life comprises pretreating a portion which may cause the fatigue of the metal material, treating it with ultrasonic shock, and subsequently conducting a quality assurance inspection, to improve the fatigue life.



## LEGAL STATUS

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